



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
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June 13, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes  
Director of Public Works

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 80**  
**BOARD AGENDA, JUNE 18, 2002**  
**AGREEMENT WITH LOS ANGELES AND**  
**SAN GABRIEL RIVERS WATERSHED COUNCIL**

We are recommending that the Board authorize the Director of Public Works to enter into a new agreement with the Watershed Council to provide \$75,000 to fund part of the local match required by grants for Phase II of the Water Augmentation Study. This action is being recommended to assist the Watershed Council in continuing to fund a study to evaluate impacts of urban stormwater runoff on groundwater quality and to evaluate effectiveness of urban Best Management Practices.

In early 2001, the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council asked Public Works to participate financially in a study that would evaluate the potential impacts of on-site urban stormwater infiltration on groundwater quality and drinking water supplies in the Los Angeles area. This was to be a multiagency and multiyear study that would look at several issues. Among the questions to be addressed were 1) what are the water quality impacts on drinking water aquifers; 2) what are the avoided pollution, water supply, and environmental degradation costs; 3) how feasible is large-scale implementation of on-site recharge, and what quantities of water would this make available for recharge; and 4) what are the institutional and regulatory issues that must be addressed to utilize this potential source to augment groundwater and provide additional water supplies.

By Board Motion on February 20, 2001, the Board authorized Public Works to provide \$50,000 to fund part of the first phase of this study. The study is being managed by the Watershed Council and is also sponsored and funded by the Metropolitan Water District, City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, United States Bureau of Reclamation, California

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Department of Water Resources, City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Water Replenishment District of Southern California, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, United States Corps of Engineers, and the City of Santa Monica. Public Works is part of the technical advisory committee that is overseeing the study for the Watershed Council.

Phase I of this study was conducted to learn more about the groundwater quality implications of infiltrating stormwater on-site and to demonstrate the ability of multiagency cooperation. Early conclusions indicate that 1) many pollutants already exist in low concentrations in the groundwater; 2) few pollutants in the groundwater exceed drinking water standards; and 3) stormwater runoff in the limited samples appear suitable for groundwater recharge. However, because of the small number of sampling sites and the lack of storm events, insufficient data was collected to determine broad impacts of infiltration on groundwater.

The successful creation of this coalition and progress to date has resulted in the Watershed Council receiving two grants of nearly \$2 million, from Calfed and Proposition 13, to begin Phase II of this study. Phase II will be a continuation of the initial study and will be expanded to add an additional six study sites for water quality monitoring. Phase II will also develop a scope of work for the broader long-term study, which will look at the feasibility and effectiveness of infiltration devices and the water quality implications of infiltrating urban runoff.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Brian Sasaki, Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4008.

AG:sv

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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
Executive Office